

## Mayor's Message

June 2008

May was a month filled with excitement in Murray City! Celebrating David Archuleta's success as a finalist on American Idol put our City and State under the national microscope. I wanted to acknowledge a few events that we are proud of that have recently taken place.

When we were notified that our City was invited to prepare a hometown visit for David, we had one week to organize this big event. Fortunately, we had been having preliminary meetings anticipating the opportunity for such an activity. This hometown visit was made possible by many people coming forward to participate. Our great partners included the Murray School District, Murray High School officials, students and PTSA, Boys and Girls Club, Murray Chamber of Commerce, and Murray Youth Council/Chamber. We had wonderful support from many of our local businesses who provided a variety of items on short notice. Our City employees, including those in Police, Fire, Power, Public Services and Parks Department, were indispensable in the expertise they shared. David is a great example of the talent of many young people in our City. We are all proud of him and appreciate the way he is handling his success.

In my role as Mayor, I have the chance to observe many youth in our City who accomplish so much. Miss Murray, Heidi Searle, recently dedicated a Heart Gallery in City Hall to promote foster care and adoption. Another Murray resident, Charlie Jenkins, a wonderful country singer, will be featured on a television program called "Nashville Star" this summer. His songs are some of my favorites. In fact, I have worn out my copy of his CD.

I look at many students who are reaching milestones everyday. There are Elementary age children who have created posters or write poems to celebrate Earth and Arbor Day to share their love of the earth and their artistic talents. Junior High students have been making Dutch oven meals and excelling in their school work. Numerous choirs, bands and orchestras have shared their musical talent with our City. I enjoy watching our high school athletes compete in their sports. The Cottonwood High Baseball Team recently earned their fourth consecutive state title - a truly incredible feat! I also watched Murray High's Girls Softball team compete for a state title with terrific talent.

There are countless opportunities to share the accomplishments of the youth around us. Graduations are taking place this month from all levels of schooling, highlighting and promoting the love of learning. The summer "Arts in the Park" concerts provide showcases for a wide array of talent, including outdoor plays. I hope you will mark your calendars to enjoy these events. The City celebration of Fun Days on July 4<sup>th</sup> will also provide activities focusing on the talent of your neighbors. It would be great if we could let a little of the star power that has shone on our City motivate us to enjoy the abundance of talent and entertainment all around us. I encourage everyone to take advantage of a new experience to share the talent of others and yourselves. Have a great summer!